Weather: *Details on page 55*
Tonight: Flurries, near 30
Tomorrow: Flurries, in 20s

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Young Turks vs. old dons

Cain first victim in syndicate war

BY JACK MABLEY

THE MURDER of Richard Cain was the opening shot of a war between the old dons and the young Turks for control of the crime syndicate in Chicago.

Cain was gunned down by syndicate killers as a warning to the young rebels.

If the warning is taken, the first shot may be the last. If the young bloods are not intimidated by the pictures of their employe, Cain, lying in a pool of blood with his face destroyed, the Cain murder could be the beginning of mass gang warfare on a scale reminiscent of the '30s.

The killing was done by local gunmen, not by imported killers.

Cain was not involved in the earlier murder of Sam DeStefano. Cain was not dealing in narcotics. Cain was not killed by mistake in belief he was an informer. Cain was not trying to muscle in as head of the syndicate in Chicago.

And any investigators who think Cain had a secret cache of incriminating tapes and documents hidden away in a lock box are probably spinning their wheels. Cain kept his records in his head.

Mabley's report

THIS INFORMATION comes from a source involved

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RICHARD CAIN

Young Turks vs. dons —Cain first victim

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directly in the struggle for power in the underworld. Every detail is confirmed by the highest investigative authorities.

When Cain got out of prison in 1971, he was hired by the young Mafia operatives who have been dubbed the young Turks by reporters and police. They don't have any special name for themselves.

The young gang men have been frozen out of the action by the old dons—Accardo, Alex, Giancana, and their kin, who have closets full of money and are heavily into legitimate investments.

Cain went to work for the young element because nobody else would hire him. In July, 1971, he wrote from prison: "My BIG problem will be employment. Anyone who hires me, with my notoriety, should see a psychiatrist. . . . How I dread '72."

In a vacuum of accurate information and any really good gang intelligence, many investigators and reporters have run wild with speculation about Cain's activities, pegging him as a power broker, aspirant to gang leadership, high living playboy, and anything else they could dream up.

CAIN WAS AN ADVISER and helper and driver and translator for gang boss Sam Giancana from Giancana's base in Mexico, before Cain went to prison, and briefly after he got out.

In Chicago he tied in with the rebels because they were willing to put him to work. He was not a big operator. He enjoyed neither wealth nor power. He was an employe.

Cain met daily, literally, with Marshall Caifano, a middle-aged gangster who got out of prison about the same time Cain was released, found his sources of power and income in Chicago dried up, and also cast his lot with the young Turks.

The actual act which led to the order for Cain's execution is not known outside the circles directly involved. But what is known is that the killing was a signal to the young rebels that the old men still have the muscle, and are ready to use it.

The victim of the warning execution could have been Caifano. But he has closer blood ties to the old gangsters

Mabley's report

The warning to Caifano is clear.

A man who knows the workings of the gangs said:

"The killing had to clear with Accardo. Then they had to call Giancana in Mexico and tell him—not ask him, tell him—that Cain was to be killed.

"Giancana would have only one reaction. Any disloyalty, any trouble in the ranks, his only word is 'Kill him.' Get rid of the guy, that solves the problem. Giancana is of the old school."

A WELL-EXECUTED killing is a means of making points in the Mafia, and there is little doubt that the actual trigger men were local talent, which abounds. They probably were assigned by Chucky Nicoletti, the chief executioner.

The fact they wore ski masks lends credence to the theory they feared recognition by local acquaintances.

A knowledgeable source recounted, "When Cain got back to Chicago from prison, he went to the young guys. He had nowhere else to look for a job. He'd never dealt with them before prison.

"They hired him for two reasons. He had a good mind. And he had what they felt was a sense of values.

"The young guys see themselves as liberal-minded, more into business than violent crime. For them, 'taking somebody for a ride' is something out of TV movies. It's not their idea of what should be

MARSHALL CAIFANO . . . Slaying was warning.

touch heroin. If one of their people gets a life rap for drugs, they lose control of him. The risk just doesn't justify the possible gains.

"It was Cain's bad luck that he happened to be in the middle . . . he more or less got caught. He switched allegiance. He tried to persuade the old guys that the new methods were better."

WHAT NEXT? THE men who are paid to maintain peace in Chicago and environs are holding their breaths. There simply is no signal yet from the young Turks whether they get the message and will be good little fellows.

They aren't making the big money their elders got. The Accardos and Giancanas have literally tens of millions in cash and negotiable securities and real estate investments.

The young bloods measure their assets in thousands. A common income ranges between $60,000 and $100,000 a year, minus expenses. They want to go 100 per cent legit and eliminate the hazards of prosecution. But they have to rob and steal to stay in the black.

Now they face a very tough decision. Do they knuckle down to the old men, stay in line, take the crumbs, wait for the old guys to die in their beds?

Or do they get out the artillery and take a chance of ending up like Richard Cain?